

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This invention is related to electronic information transfer between trading partners and more particularly to the conversion and validation of item identifiers, part numbers, in documents that describe a manufactured product.

In the present invention, a private exchange catalog provides the description of an item and the item identifier, the part number, as represented in the sets of part numbers of each trading partner. The catalog is used for validation and processing of the Approved Manufacture List, a cross reference between a buyers part number and a supplier part number, and for part number conversion and validation of the Bill of Material, a list of part numbers and quantities for a product, and the AML as these documents are transferred between the trading partners. Methods for using and maintaining the private exchange catalog are provided.

Private Exchange Catalog System & Methods Patent Application